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PROPOSITIONS RELATING TO NIE-25

1. The USSR will expand into any area into which the Kremlin estimates it can move without an unacceptable risk of war.
2. The USSR will also take steps intended to prevent the development of a threat to the security of the orbit.
3. The USSR will also resist any threat to its control over its satellites or the security of the orbit.

Actually these three propositions are inextricably related to each other. The Soviet regime doubtless considers that its security can only finally be secured by the elimination of all capitalistic governments. More immediately the existence of free countries contiguous to countries already integrated into the Soviet orbit constitutes at best a continuous temptation to the satellite countries to break out of the orbit and at worst a staging area for attacks on the orbit. Thus "expansion" and "security" become almost interchangeable in meaning.

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